

In the Claims:

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, and 23-35 are pending in the application with new claim 35 added herein.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A prosthetic valve comprising:
a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;
the at least one flap consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal; and
the flexible openwork structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve has a single flap and further includes a peripheral stent that provides a supporting wall against which said single flap is arranged to close.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 3 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said flaps are mounted.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 5 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method comprising:
providing a prosthetic valve including:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal; and

the flexible openwork structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claims 15-22 (cancelled).

Claim 23 (previously presented): A prosthetic valve comprising:
a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal coated with a degradable sealing material, the degradable sealing material being configured as an initial coating to prevent leakage through the flexible openwork structure until such time as a living subject develops a coating over the at least one flap by endothelialisation;
and

the flexible openwork structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve has a single flap and further includes a peripheral stent that provides a supporting wall against which said single flap is arranged to close.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve includes two flaps arranged to close against each other.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 25 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent supporting a wall extending at right angles to the plane of the stent and providing two opposed cutouts in which said flaps are mounted.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein said valve includes three flaps of similar size, arranged to close against each other.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 27 wherein said valve also includes a peripheral rib.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 27 wherein said valve further includes a peripheral stent upon which the three flaps are mounted.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The prosthetic valve as claimed in claim 23 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method of promoting tissue growth and endothelialisation, minimising the risk of foreign body infection following the fitting of a prosthetic valve in a living subject, said method comprising:

providing a prosthetic valve including:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to allow movement of liquid through the prosthetic valve only in one direction;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible open work structure of a medically acceptable metal coated with a degradable sealing material, the degradable sealing material being configured as an initial coating to prevent leakage through the flexible open work structure until such time as a living subject develops a coating over the at least one flap by endothelialisation; and

the flexible open work structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the prosthetic valve is a heart valve.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the medically acceptable metal is titanium or a titanium alloy.

Claim 35 (new): A prosthetic valve comprising:

a flap valve that includes at least one flap arranged to open the valve in one direction of flow and close the valve in an opposite direction of flow;

the at least one flap consisting of a flexible openwork structure of a medically acceptable metal; and

the flexible openwork structure being selected from the group consisting of: knitted wire and chainmail.